

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Nish Patel Reg. No. 65,546 on 2/25/2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

In Claim 1, replace "receiving input for a player's wager" in about line 3, page 2 of the claims filed on 2/25/2011 with – receiving input for an amount of a player's wager --, "subtracting a progressive jackpot wager amount" in about line 12, page 2 of the claims filed on 2/25/2011 with – subtracting, by a gaming unit controller of the gaming unit, a progressive jackpot wager amount --, "adding the progressive jackpot wager amount" in about line 15, page 2 of the claims filed on 2/25/2011 with –adding, by the gaming unit controller of the gaming unit, the progressive jackpot wager amount --, and "the occurrence of the primary game for the primary game" in about line 20-21, page 2 of the claims filed on 2/25/2011 with – the occurrence of the primary game --.

In Claim 10, replace "receiving input for a player's wager" in about line 4, page 4 of the claims filed on 2/25/2011 with – receiving input for an amount of a player's wager

--, and "the occurrence of the first game for the first game" in about lines 2-3, page 5 of the claims filed on 2/25/2011 with -- the occurrence of the first game --.

In Claim 33, replace "capable of allowing" in about line 6, page 6 of the claims filed on 2/25/2011 with -- operable to allow --, "capable of dispensing" in about line 9, page 6 of the claims filed on 2/25/2011 with -- operable to dispense a --, and "receive input for a player's wager" in about lines 5-6, page 7 of the claims filed on 2/25/2011 with -- receive input for an amount of a player's wager --.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art for the features of the claimed invention are Bridgemann et al. (US Patent 6,634,946; hereinafter Bridgemann) and Vancura et al. (US Patent Application Publication 2003/0181231; hereinafter Vacura).

However, Bridgemann alone or in combination with Vancura does not disclose a method and a gaming unit that practices the method that comprises:

"receiving input for a player's wager on an occurrence of a multi-player wagering game at an input device of a gaming unit, wherein the multi-player wagering game is a primary game; subtracting the amount of the player's wager on the occurrence of the primary game from the player's available credit at the gaming unit after receiving the input for an amount of the player's wager on the primary game, wherein the player's available credit corresponds to an amount of a medium of currency deposited at the gaming unit; comparing the amount of the player's wager on the occurrence of the

primary game to a minimum wager amount; subtracting, by a gaming unit controller of the gaming unit, a progressive jackpot wager amount from one of the player's available credit and the credits subtracted from the player's available credit when the player's wager on the primary game is greater than or equal to a minimum wager amount; awarding at least a portion of the progressive jackpot pool to the player for a secondary game when the player's outcome for the occurrence of the primary game is a predetermined progressive jackpot winning outcome for the secondary game and the player's wager for the primary game is greater than or equal to the minimum wager amount; and wherein each player has a unique game array of game indicia for the occurrence of the primary game and individual game indicia are sequentially selected from the range of game indicia, wherein one of the players wins the occurrence of the primary game by matching a predetermined game winning pattern of game indicia on the player's unique game array with the sequentially selected game indicia, and wherein the outcome of the occurrence of the primary game is a predetermined progressive jackpot winning outcome when a pattern on the player's unique game array formed by game indicia on the unique game array matching sequentially selected game indicia matches a predetermined progressive jackpot winning pattern," or, "providing an input device for receiving input for an amount of a player's wager on an occurrence of a multi-player wagering game at the gaming unit, wherein the multi-player wagering game is a first game; configuring the gaming unit to subtract the amount of the player's wager on the occurrence of the first game from the player's available credit at the gaming unit after receiving the input for the player's wager on the first game at the input device, wherein the player's available credit corresponds to an amount of a medium of currency deposited at the gaming unit; configuring the gaming unit to compare the amount of the player's wager on the occurrence of the first game to a minimum wager amount; configuring the gaming unit to subtract a progressive jackpot wager amount from one of the player's available credit and the credits subtracted from the player's available credit when the player's wager on the first game is greater than or equal to the minimum wager amount; configuring the gaming unit to add the progressive jackpot wager amount to a progressive jackpot pool for a progressive jackpot; configuring the gaming

unit to determine an outcome for the player for the occurrence of the first game; configuring the gaming unit to award at least a portion of the progressive jackpot pool for a second game to the player when the player's outcome for the occurrence of the first game is a predetermined progressive jackpot winning outcome and the player's wager is greater than or equal to the minimum wager amount, wherein the second game is different than the first game; and wherein each player has a unique game array of game indicia for the occurrence of the first game and individual game indicia are sequentially selected from a range of available game indicia, wherein one of the players wins the occurrence of the first game by matching a predetermined game winning pattern of game indicia on the player's unique game array with the sequentially selected game indicia, and wherein the outcome of the occurrence of the first game is a predetermined progressive jackpot winning outcome of the second game when a pattern on the player's unique game array formed by game indicia on the unique game array matching sequentially selected game indicia matches a predetermined progressive jackpot winning pattern."

Thus, the claimed invention is not anticipated by nor obvious over the closest prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ARTHUR O. HALL whose telephone number is

(571)270-1814. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri, 8:00am - 5:00 pm, Alt Fri, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on (571) 272-4690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Arthur O Hall/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3718